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MONARCHS FAIL TO SINK PIRATES

THE VALLEY COLLEGE MEN'S BASEBALL TEAM DROPS ITS THIRD CONSECUTIVE GAME.

SEE PAGE 6

VALLEY COLLEGE FACES SANCTIONS AFTER ACCJC VISIT

Valley College was found in violation of eight rules and could lose acceditation.

CLAIRE BRISLEY
HANNAH POWERS
STAFF WRITERS

After a two-year process, an accreditation team revealed during their visit to Valley College a violation of eight requirements that could result in the college losing its accreditation.

Community colleges in California have to prepare a self-evaluation report every six years that is then analyzed to reaffirm their accreditation. The exit meeting in Monarch Hall on March 14 discussed major issues with the college's budget and Student Learning Outcomes.

"The biggest challenge for Valley College, and we had this problem when I first started as president, is that we have not been able to end the year with a balanced budget," said Valley President Sue Carleo. "We are at 85 percent completion with our SLO's, and in six months, we will be at 100 percent, with over 1,200 classes, it was a lot more involved than we realized."

Accreditation is a stamp of approval that proves that the college is achieving the standards set in quality, integrity and effectiveness. Losing accreditation would mean a loss in financial aid and courses at Valley would not be transferable to other institutions.

"We could be put on probation for needing help in those two main areas, but that's not unique. It's very common," said Carleo.

Valley had a $2.4 million deficit at the beginning on 2011, according to the self- evaluation report submitted by Valley to the accreditation team.

The college proposed an action plan that demonstrated to the district that, if provided with an additional $1.1 million, the college would find ways to reduce its expenditures to end the year without a deficit.

The chancellor granted the request, and the college ended the 2011-12 year with a deficit of $796,968. Despite efforts, ending balances for the past several years have shown that decreases in funding have been greater than the college's ability to reduce expenses due to the large proportion (93 to 95 percent) of salaries and fixed costs.

To improve on the lack of Student Learning Outcomes and the school budget, Valley plans to self-evaluate and ensure plans for extreme efficiency in all problematic areas. Valley is preparing to ensure that a budget prioritization process is fully developed, followed and widely communicated so everyone understands the method used to make budgetary decisions.

"There are five levels to accreditation: the first is full accreditation, then warning, probation, show cause and last, no accreditation," said Senate President Joshua Miller. "With no accreditation, you basically do not exist as a college."

Despite the eight recommen-

|See **Accreditation**, Page 2

JAHSAUDI PERKINS| VALLEY STAR
Keeping Clean - New Directions for Youth Inc. volunteers paint over graffiti ridden streets in Valley Glen last Saturday in collaboration with the "Strike Force Team" clean up event.

VALLEY GLEN COMMUNITY CLEANS UP AREAS AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND CAMPUS

The Valley Glen community united to clean clutter and graffiti around the neighborhood.

JHANELLE RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

Valley Glen's neighborhood clean-up "Strike Force Team" united Saturday in Valley College's parking Lot A to rid the streets of clutter and graffiti. More than 5,000 newsletters were distributed to the public from Council District 2 to notify the community about the event.

The "Strike Force Team" consists of Councilmember Paul Krekorian, the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association, the LAPD, the Greater Valley Glen Council and residents. Together, they formed a crew that shared one thing: a passion to keep the community safe and clean.

"This neighborhood of Valley Glen is especially active," said Krekorian. "They will come together—neighborhood groups here are very active—they will monitor the progress we have made to make sure that they continue to build a sense of community."

The team was divided into five groups following five different grids, which mapped out certain areas of the neighborhood. Each crew received a yellow notepad to write down the location of any bulky items, graffiti, litter or shopping carts they found.

Once the clutter was spotted, the teams reported back to the command post by calling the LAPD cadets to alarm the Department of Sanitation, Bureau of Street Services, California Shopping Cart Retrieval Corporation or New Directions for Youth Inc.—the latter of which volunteered to remove graffiti.

Nikki Ezhari, the Valley Glen and Van Nuys field deputy, confirmed the crew had discovered 214 bulk items, 50 shopping carts, 112 instances of graffiti, two yard sales, and one pot hole, which she stated will be removed in three weeks.

Krekorian believes due to budget cuts, the city would have to come up with a creative solution to clean the community by reaching out to residents who are interested in keeping their neighborhood neat.

"There's never an ending point where people can stop worrying about the safety of their community," said Krekorian. "They have to keep at it, and the city has to be there to respond to their needs."

The "Broken Window Theory," which was introduced in an article by social scientists James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling, impacted crime reduction programs in cities such as New York, Boston and Los Angeles. The theory argues that if one building or one sidewalk in a neighborhood starts to deteriorate, the rest will follow.

According to the Manhattan Institute For Policy Research, 60,000 violent crimes were prevented from 1989 to 1998 because

|See **Clean**, Page 2

VALLEY HONORS DEAN'S LIST STUDENTS

JOHN STRUBE | VALLEY STAR
NUMBER ONE - Aviation artist Lloyd S. Jones is among Valley College's inaugural class after the campus' opening in 1949.

Monarch Hall was host to students who made the dean's and president's lists in the fall 2012 semester.

JULIO FLORES
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Monarch Hall was host to the Dean's Reception this past Thursday, with more than 2,500 Valley College students being honored for having a GPA of 3.5 or higher during the fall 2012 semester.

Melanie Hernandez, the president of the campus' honors' society, Tau Alpha Epsilon, and the Associated Student Union President Vahe Matevosyan acted as co-hosts for the event.

"We want to honor those with a GPA of 3.5 and higher and show our congratulations for their hard work," said Hernandez.

Letters were sent inviting those Valley students who met the requirements. Last year, the event was sparsely attended due to a lack that funds that resulted in the invitation letters being sent to students' campus email addresses—which many students do not even know they have let alone check regularly—rather than mailed.

"Many students were unaware of those new emails last semester and did not know they were going to be honored," said Hernandez. "Arrangements were made this year for letters to be sent out, and the results were successful."

Joshua Miller, who is the president of the Academic Senate and chair of the foreign language department, was one of the first speakers, encouraging students to keep trying and to believe in themselves.

Miller said his counselors told him to stop wasting his time sending applications to try to get into UC schools. They were never going to take him.

"When I was going to graduate from UC Berkeley, my counselors were the first ones to get an invitation to my graduation,"

|See **Dean**, Page 2

BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE MAINTAINS SEPARATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS

State assembly budget subcommittee rejects Gov. Brown's plan to move adult schools into the community college system.

RACHEL PARSONS
STAFF WRITER

The bipartisan Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance voted March 19 to reject Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to move adult education programs from K-12 districts to the California Community Colleges System.

Brown recommended a $300 million grant for the system to absorb all adult schools, which currently operate under the jurisdiction of independent and unified school districts statewide.

"This same function when [originally] provided by the K-12 school districts was funded at the level of $900 million," said Valley College President Sue Carleo. "There is no way we can do the same thing for one third the funds."

LAUSD's Division of Adult and Career Education is operating on a budget $105.4 million for the 2012-2013 school year. DACE provides classes for adults and high school students at more than 61 locations. It offers ESL, GED prep and career technical classes that do not normally fall in line with the community college mission.

With the rejection of the proposal, the tight budgets and cramped facilities of the LACCD will be spared a potential influx of about 105,000 students who DACE instructs, according to the division's website.

United Teachers Los Angeles Chair John Mears expressed gratitude to the Assembly members who turned down the plan. Mears serves as the union representative at West Valley Occupational Center—a DACE facility that serves Woodland Hills and Van Nuys.

"We in adult education serve huge numbers of people who are barely literate," said Mears. "Even in their own language. In many cases, we have [immigrants] who only have six or seven years of schooling. There's no way they could go into a college setting. Sacramento's completely out of touch with the communities we work in. We're greatly relieved."

DACE courses are more affordable than LACCD classes, keeping access to basic education available to the lowest end of the economic strata. A beginning-level accounting class at WVOC costs $60 a semester compared to $138 at Valley for a three- unit course.

Susan Bonilla, D-Concord, chairwoman of the subcommittee, recognized the unique necessity of these tools for the underprivileged.

"We want to send a message [to the governor] that adult education needs to be rebuilt," she told The Sacramento Bee. "But, we don't want to in any way lead to further undermining of those programs."

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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Clean

Continued from page 1

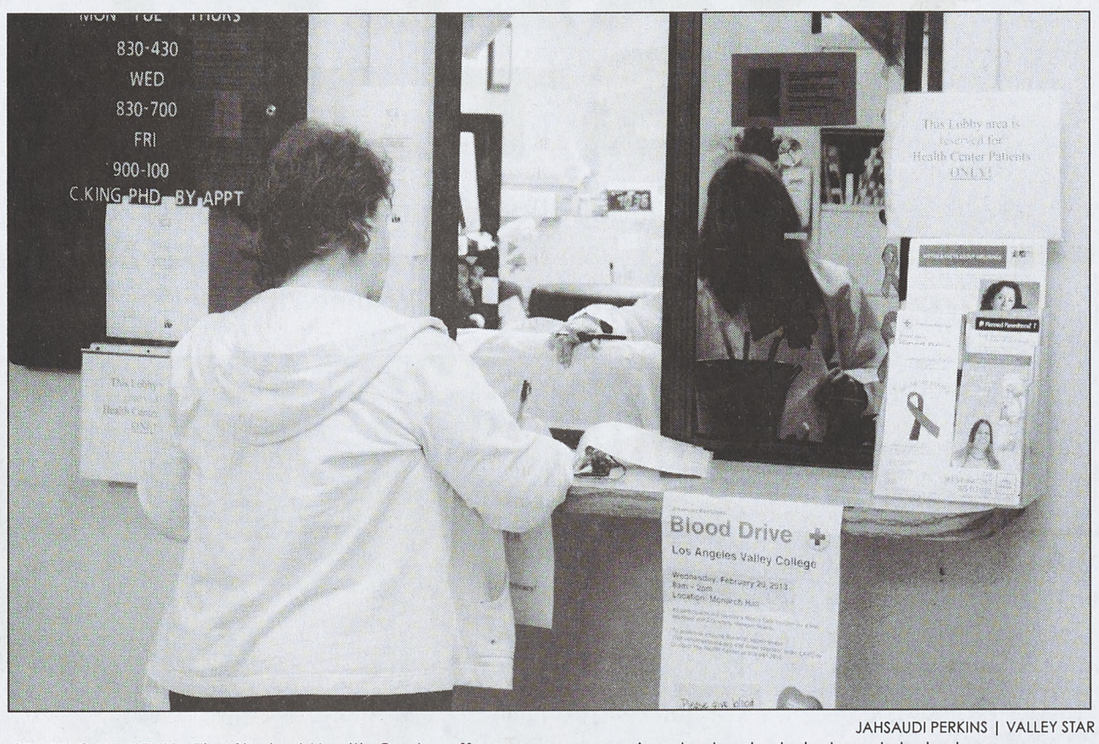
of the "Broken Windows" policy. Jean Sinatra, community activist and former president for the Mid-Valley Community Police Council, strongly believes citizens who volunteer to keep the public unpolluted will send strong messages to criminals.

"If the community looks neglected by way of anything, literally from broken windows on houses, schools or other commercial buildings, to graffiti to trash everywhere, it sends a message that that community is just not paying attention, not engaged," said Sinatra.

HEALTH CENTER OFFERS MANY SERVICES

Valley College students can visit the Health Center for physical exams among other services.

WALEED RAHMAN
STAFF WRITER



JAHSAUDI PERKINS | VALLEY STAR

STAYING HEALTHY - The Student Health Center offers numerous services to stundents, but most students are unaware that they qualify with a valid student ID, one enrolled class and the $11 health fee.

Students on a budget who find it difficult to make a regular check up with a doctor can visit the Valley College Heath Center. For $11 a semester, students can receive physical exams, health assessments, blood pressure checks and up to 12 psychological sessions.

"We provide physicals at no cost," said Sonia Nodal. "[We also] educate our students on different preventative topics such as smoking cessation, diabetes, obesity and much more."

A Valley student ID, current enrollment in at least one unit and proof that a student's health fee is paid are the three elements needed for a student to be eligible to visit the center.

Located in the North Gym, its experienced staff includes Sonia Nodal, the physician assistant, Dr. Sridhar Ramachandran, the medical director, and Dr. Carl King, the clinical psychologist.

"Academic success is best achieved when a student's life is balanced," said Nodal. "At the LAVC Student Health Center, we promote a healthy lifestyle to help students reach academic success."

Aside from physical and health screenings, the Center offers lab tests and immunizations at a reduced cost. Tests include: pregnancy, blood and urine tests, TSH, CMP, urinalysis dip, varicella, tetanus, cholesterol, diphtheria, diabetes, mumps, rubella, rubeola, Hepatitis A and B, HIV, STD, flu shots, Pap smears, TB skin tests and other tests.

"It's great that we have this service available to us, especially for those of us who are full-time students and can't afford to get healthcare," said Tamheed Ullah, a newly registered medical student from Pakistan.

Many students, however, still do not know about the services. "I've been here for three years, how did I not know about this?" said Anthony Nevarez, a mechanical engineering student.

Since time and space is limited, it is highly recommended that an appointment be made for the Health Center, although walk-ins are accepted when the center has availability. The center is open Monday and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Psychological Services is in Room 108 of the Campus Center. Appointments are available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with walk-ins available Monday 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. to noon and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Services are meant to help students explore ideas for resolving problems and help to come up with a resolution. Available services include: crisis intervention, individual counseling and referrals to community resources.

For more information, visit www.lavc.edu/studenthealth or to schedule a medical appointment, call 818-947-2918. For an appointment with Psychological Services, call 818-778-5708. For emergencies, the 24-hour Los Angeles County hotline for suicide prevention and other mental health emergencies is available at 800-854-7771.

Valley College Crime Blotter

The Valley Star publishes a list of semester-to-date crime reports provided by the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Valley College Station and crimemapping.com.

5800 FULTON AVE.
- A vehicle burglary was reported at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 11.
- A petty theft was reported at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 4.
- A stolen vehicle was reported at 6:20 p.m. on Monday, March 4.
- A petty theft was reported at 9:40 a.m. on Tuesday, February 12.
- A burglary was reported at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, February 6.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
- Room 104: A petty theft was reported at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, February 14.

ALLIED HEALTH & SCIENCES CENTER
- A petty theft was reported at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5.

CAFETERIA
- A petty theft was reported at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, February 25.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE
- Room 106: A petty theft was reported at 10:50 a.m. on Wednesday, February 20.

LIBRARY & ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER
- A petty theft was reported at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5.

LOT E
- A stolen vehicle was reported at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, February 6.

LOT K
- A petty theft from a vehicle was reported at 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 28.

MATH SCIENCE BUILDING
- A petty theft was reported at 1:45 p.m. on Monday, February 25.
- A bicycle theft was reported at 8:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 19.

MONARCH SQUARE
- A bicycle theft was reported at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12.

NORTH GYM
- Restroom: A petty theft was reported at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12.
- Equipment Room: A petty theft was reported at 10:20 a.m. on Monday, March 4.
- Gym: A petty theft was reported at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 4.

SOUTH GYM
- Women's Locker Room: A burglary was reported at 9:40 a.m. on Monday, March 11.
- Fitness Center: A burglary was reported at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6.
- A petty theft was reported at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27.

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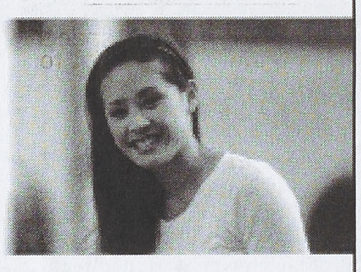

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Dean

Continued from page 1

said Miller.

Valley students were treated to special guest speaker Lloyd S. Jones, a former Valley College student from the campus' inaugural class of 1949. Jones told the audience he transferred to UCLA, where he was told he was not good enough to major in art. Jones is now an aviation artist.

"Do what you believe in," said Jones, who was honored with an award from college President Sue Carleo for being among the first batch of Valley students.

More than 450 students who have held a GPA of 3.5 or higher for three consecutive semesters were honored with a special pin for the President's Honor. Albert Salazar, a cinema student, was one of the students honored.

"It feels nice to be honored for the hard work of the past few semesters," said Salazar. "So, I appreciate the ceremony and the attention they gave us."

Accreditation

Continued from page 1

dations, Valley was commended in three areas: Being the 2011 Tree Campus USA, the only college in California to obtain this recognition; the development of the comprehensive 2012-2017 Technology Plan that enhances the IT staff's capability and availability to maintain a supportive technology system; and the district's inclusion of Student Learning Outcomes as a part of evaluation component of the faculty collective bargaining agreement.

"They also applauded the student body," said Miller. "They were impressed by the students' involvement at our school."

The accreditation team will compile their report of these preliminary findings and send it to the commissions board that will vote and make the final decision in June. Only then will these findings become official recommendations.

"Everything is fixable," said Carleo. "We want to be the best college we can be. We're doing well right now, but we can always do better."

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff or students.

PRO/CON

WHEN CHOOSING MAJOR, FOR LOVE OR MONEY?

A student's path to happiness might not include a big paycheck.

HANNAH POWERS
STAFF WRITER

Everyone has to work. Some people know their career path from a very young age while others are left unsure. One of the first decisions students face when starting college is the difficult choice of selecting a major. This first began as a choice depending on love and passion for the subject, but with the economy at its worst, the path for money rather than happiness has unfortunately become quite crowded. There is no magical major that will guarantee millions of dollars the first year out of college.

Students have become more interested in choosing majors in subjects that have a higher projected salary tagged along with it instead of something they are actually passionate about.

However, all majors are very different and just deciding to study medicine or accounting for the money does not necessarily mean millions of dollars and happiness..

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life," said the late Steve Jobs in a commencement speech at Stanford University. "Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary."

Jobs, the cofounder of Apple, followed his intuition in college and decided to take a calligraphy class that caught his eye. Steve has mentioned in several interviews that if he had not followed his heart, then the Macs that dominate technology today would be very different. He was fascinated with the typography and elements he learnt in that class, which helped him 10 years later when he was designing the first Macintosh computer.

Students can end up following the money and neglecting their hearts when left with feelings of dread and uncertainty about the future. However, this can be an opportunity to experiment, discover loves, hates, passions and which of the 1,200 classes available at Valley are just down right tedious.

During the Valley College dean's reception this past week, Joshua Miller, the president of the Academic Senate, made a speech about when he was in community college, and how his counselors told him to stop wasting his time trying to get into a UC school. "When I was going to graduate from UC Berkeley, my counselors were the first ones to get an invitation to my graduation," said Miller.

So, choose something interesting. The degree itself does not make a person successful; the person makes him or herself successful. Whether it be studying law or art history, do not do it for the money, do it for the passion.

TOP FIVE HIGHEST-EARNING MAJORS

1. PETROLEUM ENGINEERING $98,000-$163,000
2. AEROSPACE ENGINEERING $62,500-$118,000
3. ACTUARIAL MATHEMATICS $56,100-$112,000
4. CHEMICAL ENGINEERING $67,500-$111,000
5. NUCLEAR ENGINEERING $66,800-$107,000

ACCORDING TO PAYSCLE.COM

Choosing comfort over passion when picking a major and career path is the smart decision.

WALEED RAHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Deciding on a major is a life-altering event. Some may say it is the biggest decision a student could make, and they would be right. It is a choice that will dictate the rest of someone's life. Now, if one's dream is to be a doctor, lawyer, senator, CEO or even president of the United States, then they have a head start on life.

But for those who are undecided, they should consider following the money and growth rate rather than getting a degree in something they love—unless their love is something like pharmacology, which according to kiplinger.com has an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent, an average recent-grad salary of $51,200 and a projected job growth for 2010–2020 of 25 percent.

To paraphrase the famous Wu Tang Clan song, cash rules everything around us. Our society is driven by money. The more money one has, the more comfortable one is—it is a basic fact.

Colleges are filled with older students who are going back to school to get another degree because with their liberal arts degree, the only job they can get is as a security guard at Target.

The argument will be made that students should not care about making money because if they are miserable, it is not worth it. Of course. The simple logic is yes, one could be miserable in their six-figure job, but they will not have to worry about working a second job to make rent.

So in reality, they would be less "miserable" than others—and richer. A degree in drama has an unemployment rate of 7.1 percent and an average recent-grad salary of $26,000. Furthermore, the projected job growth for this field within this decade is four percent, and the likelihood of working retail is double the average, according to kiplinger.com.

There is no point of going to college and getting into debt if one is just going to be working an hourly retail job.

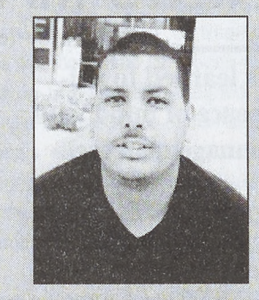
VALLEY VIEW | HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR MAJOR?

"That is the future. Besides that, it would be engineering or aerospace. I like that it's a very broad field."

-KEVIN VASQUEZ, COMPUTER SCIENCES

"I've been into programming since middle school, and I've always liked it."

-SARKIS CHAVCHYAN, COMPUTER SCIENCES



"Family. My mother runs her own family business."

-MICHAEL VALDIVIESO, BUSINESS

"I joined the speech team and did that for two years, which led me to communications."

-KAREN VAGONIAN, COMMUNICATIONS

"I used to have a corporate job but they let me go because I didn't have my degree."

-STEVEN SOSA, MARKETING

COMPILED BY JOHN STRUBE | VALLEY STAR

"DIRTY GIRLS" PAVED WAY, GAVE GIRLS A VOICE

Ostracized from their classmates for being "different," the views of two teenage girls from more than a decade ago prove to still be relevant today.

DEZIREE MILLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

"You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation," said Brigham Young, more than 100 years ago when women still did not even have the right to vote. Women's power and influence did not go unnoticed even then. While they have undeniably gained more freedom and rights in the past century, they are still not seen as equals and there are still movements and struggles for equal rights.

Arguably, the most recent identifiable movement was the "riot grrrl" movement of the 1990s. At one Santa Monica school, in 1996, a group of girls created a stir when they questioned societal norms and tried to raise awareness of women's inequalities. Michael Lucid was a senior attending the same school as the girls, Crossroads School, when he was urged by a teacher to document the group, coined "The Dirty Girls" for their grungy appearances. The documentary

with the same title has gone viral after it was uploaded on YouTube at the beginning of this month, just before International Women's Day.

The documentary featured interviews from a variety of students, and "The Dirty Girls" themselves, who were essentially lead by two sisters, Amber and Harper Willat.

Many expressed disparaging opinions about their hygiene, suggesting they do not shower and they should shave.

But some delved deeper. "I mean, maybe it's like a statement about what it means to be a woman today," said one student. "I mean, I don't know if you can read that deep into it, but I think it definitely constitutes going against the social constraints."

For this reason, "The Dirty Girls" gained so much attention. They did not act within the expectations of their peers in high school and especially did not conform to expected behavior for nice, young ladies. Larger things were on their minds.

"I remember being really amazed by The Dirty Girls back when I shot the footage," explained Lucid. "I was really impressed that girls so young could be so articulate and expressive and aesthetically self-aware, and even outrageous at times in their personal style and behavior. It was often like some kind of cool grunge rock n' roll performance art on campus. I think this showed that they had a maturity and sophisticated worldview that is rare in girls so young. But that's

what made these girls so remarkable that they were so young and yet already so self-realized, and I always admired that about them."

The sisters created a zine to raise awareness of the riot grrrl movement, the unfair treatment of women, such as rape and molestation, and also the exploitation of the female body in the media.

Issues like these still exist, another factor that may contribute to the large amount of interest and views of the film. Many students included in the film were still skeptical, questioning the girls on all levels. But who better to know what women are facing than those growing into one.

Both sisters admit having friends who were raped or molested, and one even reveals she has been molested. Discouraging these acts against women can only be seen as an admirable act, yet the girls were still ridiculed.

Fortunately, the girls' spirits were never weighed down by doubters.

"It started getting clearer in mind," said Amber. "I mean, I can be whoever I want to be. I don't have to look for anyone, I don't have to do anything for anyone; I can just be myself."

Now, thanks to social media, theses trailblazing sisters are having their ahead-of-their-time views heard by a whole new generation.

CNN TAKES UNETHICAL APPROACH TO DELIVERING NEWS

The news powerhouse shows young journalists what not to do when it botches its coverage of a rape trial.

ALTON PITRE
STAFF WRITER

Two Steubenville, Ohio high school football players were convicted earlier this month of raping a drunk and unconscious 16-year-old girl while at a party during the summer of 2012. An egregious act. While reporting the on the trial's outcome, CNN journalist who was live at the sentencing continually informed the viewers how difficult it was to watch the boys' lives being destroyed. Another egregious act.

"Incredibly difficult to watch," said CNN's Poppy Harlow. "As these two young men who had such promising futures, star football players, very good students literally watched as they believed their life fell apart."

It is astonishing that Harlow, and the hour's host Candy Crawley, focused on the loss of these convicted rapists' "promising futures" while ignoring the effect the rape will leave on the victim.

As journalists, their duty is to inform the public by providing a fair and comprehensive account of events and issues. Journalists should be objective and distinguish between personal feeling and facts when reporting the news.

Journalists should remain free of obligation to any interest other than the public's right to know, and this is what CNN terribly failed to do.

The two teenagers engaged themselves in a crime that is strictly forbidden and totally unacceptable. They decided to risk their own futures. It is the media's job to acknowledge these actions, not to censure the court for its decision to incarcerate these criminals.

Not once did any of the CNN figures acknowledge the emotion, pain or future of the victim. Not once. The reporters focused solely on how the bright futures of the rapists were ruined.

Mainstream media exceedingly affects society's opinions and perceptions. If this unethical mistake is not corrected promptly, by action on CNN's part, it may tarnish the public's judgment on this particular case and similar future cases.

It will possibly attain the attention of aspiring journalists, convincing them that it is OK to empathize and show compassion for these illicit acts and show bias in their reporting.

LEGISLATORS BLAME GAME MISSES MARK WITH NEW GUN LAW

Gun violence is an issue, but violating Americans' Second Amendment rights is not the answer.

WALEED RAHMAN
STAFF WRITER

America was founded on the principle of enlightened men and the barrel of a gun. Without guns, we would be sipping tea at noon and football would be totally different. That's why the Second Amendment revolves around them.

After the tragic events of Sandy Hook and Aurora, California's very own Senator Diane Feinstein (D-Calif.) authored the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013, a bill that, according to her website, will stop the sale, transfer, importation and manufacturing of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition-feeding devices.

It may sound like a logical move as it is just an updated version of the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban, but it falls short on many issues like explaining why certain guns are banned and others are not. It also grandfathered in semi-automatic guns that would have been banned but were not because it is easier to let them keep the guns then to—as Charlton Heston would say—pry them from their cold, dead hands.

The bill was cut by Senate Majority leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada) from the overall democratic gun control package that includes background checks and the unnerving Orwellian recording of sales of all gun purchases and transactions.

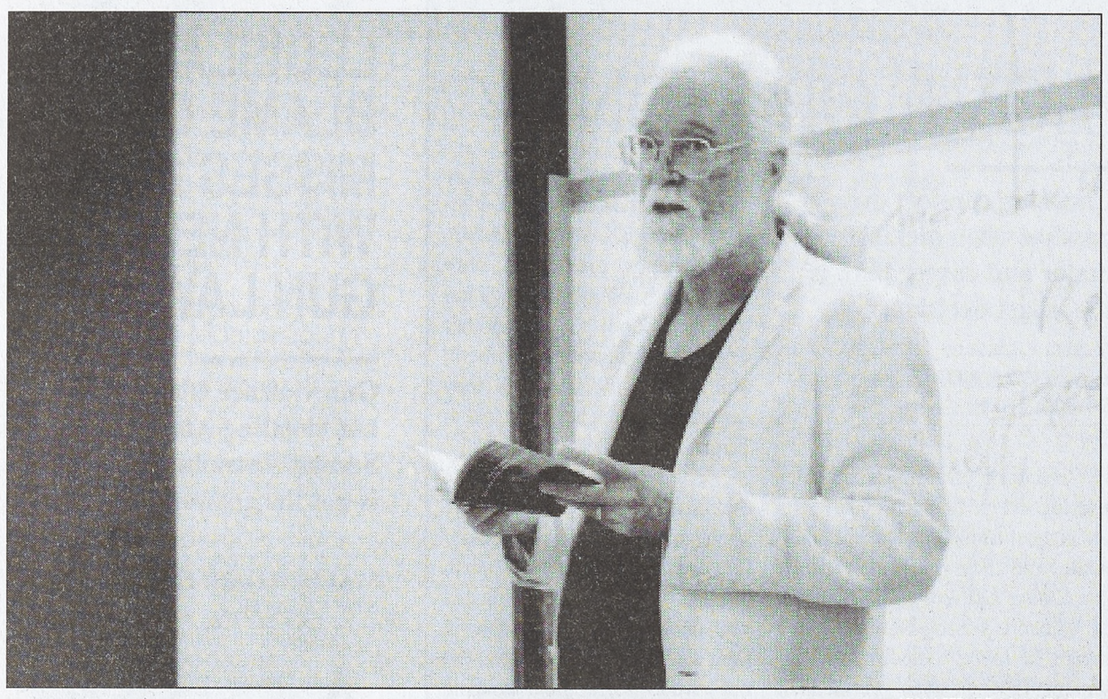
The fact remains that a gun is an inanimate object; it cannot fire on its own. It needs someone to pull the trigger. While a majority of Americans will get behind the background checks, the idea of a database of gun owners spits on the graves of the founding fathers. Imagine if the British had that information during the War of Independence or if that database was hacked into by an enemy nation.

Street gangs already get their guns illegally, so blaming law-abiding citizens is not the answer. The constitution states that we have the right to bear arms to defend ourselves. In Chicago, there were as many gun-related violent acts as in the combined states of Vermont, Maine, North Dakota, South Dakota, New Hampshire and Montana.

When a baseball player hits a homerun, people do not talk about the bat, or when a basketball player makes a shot, people do not credit the ball—it is all about the person. It should not be different with a gun.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the editor can be sent to **editorinchief@lavalleystar.com** or submitted online at **www.lavalleystar.com.** Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.



JOHN STRUBE | VALLEY STAR

SPREADING WISDOM - Kelley Ross, a retired philosophy instructor, teaches a lecture on moral philosophy March 18.

PHILOSOPHY LECTURE OFFERS A DIFFERENT STYLE OF LEARNING

The philosphy department sponsors free lectures with a new topic every week.

CLAIRE BRISLEY
STAFF WRITER

From Machiavelli's "The Prince" to Plato's "The Apology," Valley College instructors invite students to grasp the passion they exude about these philosophers in free lectures over the course of the spring semester.

The first lecture focused on Machiavelli and moral philosophy and his political treatise with the help of the text "The Prince." The audience's attention was held by the instructor's enthusiasm on the subject.

"Necessitas non habet legem," recited retired philosophy instructor Kelley Ross. "This means 'necessity has no law.'"

The ßseries of philosophy lectures will feature different topics for each one-hour session by current and former instructors. Each instructor chooses a topic he or she is passionate about and has thorough knowledge to share with the audience.

The lectures explore history, and the topics are compared to modern examples that students can comprehend.

"It was refreshing, like a new take on old history," said biochemistry major Ivan Trejo. "I enjoy learning new things about philosophy."

Topics in the series will include: The Failure of Philosophy as its Greatest Virtue, Neo-Kantian Ethics, An Unconscious Theory of the Unconscious and Plato vs. Xenophon. These lectures are free and provide a place to celebrate philosophy in a non-academic environment. Philosophy instructor Christopher Pallotti has been organizing these lectures for four years and enjoys offering a different style of learning to students.

"It takes the pressure off students without the performance, grades or curriculum in a normal class," said Pallotti, "and gives the opportunity for students to learn something important."

Students conversed after the lecture and discussed with one another the information learned.

"It's interesting the way history repeats itself," said philosophy major Natasha Taylor. "The professor had a lot of examples that I could compare to other events."

Although the lecture series is an opportunity to celebrate philosophy, it is also a chance to peruse an interest even if students don't have previous knowledge of the subject.

The philosophy lecture series will be held Tuesday nights this spring semester from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. on April 9, April 23, May 7, and May 21 in the Campus Center, room 104.

FIDM PREVIEWS THE FIELD OF FASHION FOR STYLISH MONARCHS

For the first time, Valley College offers an FIDM workshop.

JHANELLE RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

Whether a Monarch enjoys stitching and sewing or has an interest in the beauty business, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising exposed students to fashion industry secrets on Tuesday during the FIDM workshop at the Career/Transfer Center at Valley College.

Valley students who are interested in transferring to FIDM had the opportunity to learn general information about the specialized school. Gayle Bakshi, a college representative, organized the event, which opened with a screening of a brief informative DVD.

Bakshi discussed the specialized degrees the institute offers known as the "Professional Designation" for students holding an associate's degree and Bachelor of Science in business management. After several years visiting numerous Los Angeles community colleges, Bakshi's goal is to inspire students to follow their creative passions.

"If a person follows their passion, then they will be successful in their work and life," said Bakshi.

FIDM's professors and faculty members, who have all worked in the fashion field, teach students how to achieve goals and enhance their artistic vision. The fashion campus offers 20 creative majors touching every aspect of the stylish industry. There are four campuses located throughout California—in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Orange County, all of which focus on the diversity beyond the fashion field. For example, graduates have gone on to obtain jobs in wardrobe, set design, film and TV editing and as fashion publicists and image consultants. There is an average of 35,000 graduates per year and 90 percent are hired within their desired field. Since Valley does not offer a fashion program, there are still requirements students must meet at a different school to prepare themselves for FIDM.

Similar to any other university or institute, a student who wants to transfer to FIDM is still required to take general education courses to be considered for admission. With no more than 10 to 14 students who transfer to the institute during each fall semester, Clive A. Gordon, the director of the Career/Transfer Center and counseling department, tries to send students in the right direction to transfer to any four-year college.

"We will have the student work directly with the FIDM representative," said Gordon."The rep. will evaluate the transcripts that they have left, then the rep. will advise the student of what additional classes he or she should take. We do have basic core classes for general ed. and some of the major prep courses, but it would be a lot more beneficial for the student to meet with the FIDM rep., get the transcript evaluated and then fashion their program."

Gayle Bakshi also recommends community college students register in creative arts, computer, and digital design classes to help them prepare for FIDM. In addition, Bakshi arranged private tours for Monarchs to visit the fashion college and scheduled interviews with FIDM's admissions advisors.

For more information, visit www.fidm.edu.

STUDENTS CHILL OUT DURING STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Students learned to prioritize peace of mind with stress management techniques.

DEZIREE MILLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

A 10-page paper next week, calculus exercises this week and a job in between classes. It is enough to make anyone overwhelmed. While stress may seem like an unavoidable part of college life, the psychological services at Valley College are trying to change that.

About a dozen students gathered on March 5 in the Cafeteria Conference Room for a stress management workshop. They have sponsored a series of workshops in response to student outcry they heard through surveys.

"One thing that I would like to stress is we call it a workshop because we like people to participate and engage as opposed to a presentation where it's more standard to be lectured," said Shadavia France, a trainee with psychological services, who facilitated the workshop. "So, I would encourage you all to jump in and give suggestions from your own experience, and I think it will help supplement the information I have to provide"

The workshop began with a discussion of balance. Students discussed components of their lives they try to balance: family, school, work and household responsibilities. Last were exercise and time for themselves.

"A lot of people have to-do lists that includes laundry and homework, groceries and kids and all these things, but they don't prioritize 'me' time, and your needs," explained France. "Exercise, I found, is one of the first things to go when people start feeling stressed feel like they don't have enough time … keeping exercise on your list is important, though."

Another component to stress management is establishing priorities, and in turn, time management.

Students wrote out to-do lists for the day and put them into different categories like "personally important and urgent," "personally important but not urgent," "urgent but not important to me personally," and "not urgent and not important."

France wanted students to examine how they prioritize things and the value they give to their daily tasks. She suggested using an agenda to manage their time, which some students already utilized.

"I keep an agenda, and I stick to it, but it seems like there's not enough time and I'm barely making it," said English major Nora Lopez."I don't have time for myself except when I sleep, and I'm only sleeping six, sometimes seven, hours, and I'm busy the whole day, and it's like that every day. Only if I get ahead in my classes do I feel like I can take an hour to get my nails or hair done, but then I have to remind myself to get back on track, and I have to maintain it or else I start feeling overwhelmed."

When that happens, France suggested meditation, deep breathing and even something as small as surrounding yourself with relaxing things, like a nice scene on one's cell phone wallpaper to zone out to.

Each student left with a packet full of tips and tools to help keep their stress down.

"I'm definitely going to try to meditate and focus more on myself and the things I have to do," said criminal justice major Marshe Samuel.

Students can check Valley's Calendar of Events for more workshops on time management, overcoming procrastination and "Putting Me First" at www.lavc.edu/calendar/index.html.

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Wed, April 3 6:30 pm

THE STUDENT TRIPPER

MORE TO CANCUN THAN SPRING BREAK

The old standard has some surprises in store for students who branch out.

RACHEL PARSONS
STAFF WRITER

This isn't Cancun; this isn't spring break. These people are all sober. No one's sunburnt, weaving or throwing up on the sidewalk. It's peaceful and quiet. There are kids running around with ice cream cones. It seems safe.

Except it is Cancun, and as for safety, "Cancun is one of the safest places you can be in Mexico," said Victor Garza. He owns El Callejon, a bar in the massive shopping district in the city center, Mercado 28. "People here really watch out for the tourists because [tourism] is our only industry. There's nothing else here."

But there is something else—a city of more than 600,000 people. For travelers, Cancun is oriented in terms of the 14-mile-long strip of immaculate sand and corporate-chain hotels on Cancun Island, also known as a tourist trap, and the real city to the north.

Which is where I am, not down in the adult playpen called the Zona Hotelera—Hotel Zone—where even in September, there are still plenty of people drunk and sunburnt.

Cancun's reputation for being the college-kid party capital of the Western Hemisphere precedes itself. Each spring semester, thousands of university students from the United States blow their hard-earned cash to fly to the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, check themselves into one of the mega-resorts and spend five days frying in the Caribbean sun.

All I'm saying is there's more to the fabled spring break mecca than booze and nefarious romantic encounters.

In the 1970s, the Mexican government decided to create a Caribbean resort destination to mirror Acapulco. It chose the little fishing village of Cancun Island and developed housing facilities at the northern end for thousands of workers who would staff the hotels in the Zone.

"Everyone here is from somewhere else," said Garza when I caught up with him over coffee one afternoon. "They're from Mexico City, Merida, Monterrey. We say the true people from Cancun are in their 30s."

I want to see these people. Talk with them in my broken Spanish. So, I avoid the Hotel Zone—and its higher rates. I've opted for a bunk in a dormitory at The Mayan. It's a well-reviewed hostel adjacent to the evening people-watching hotspot Parque de las Palapas in the city center. At about $10 per night, it's the best deal going. The crowd is young and eclectic: Australians, Czechs, Israelis and Swedes embarking on their Central and South American romps. So much for locals.

I escape and find myself in the middle of Mercado 28 where I meet Garza. Sure, I could be down in the Zone surrounded by cheering gringos while a waiter pours tequila straight out of a bottle down my throat as he blows a whistle and wears an oversized sombrero.

But the market is the best place to start my exploration. It dominates the giant octagonal block in the dead center of Cancun, the bull's eye on the map.

El Callejon, or The Alley, is one of a handful of bars and restaurants scattered throughout the shops and stalls that sell everything from cheap Chinese imports to exquisite handmade Mexican art, jewelry and crafts. Vendors try politely but persistently to commandeer my attention. Plenty of natives browse in the crowded maze. The sweltering afternoon heat in the open-air market is held at bay by the covered walkways. A small number of tourists wander through, brought to the market by cabs that charge them more than locals simply because they came from the Hotel Zone where the standard rates are higher than in the city. I paid the same rate as the townies.

I'm not a shopper, but I am drenched from the invisible clouds of humidity pushing through the updrafts of heat coming off the sidewalks, so I break down and by a fan, a pretty orange one. The man selling it to me wants $20. We chat in English though he claims not to speak it well.

"My language is Mayan," he said. Wait, I thought those guys were extinct.

They aren't. The truth is there are plenty of Mayan descendents still living in the Yucatan. As many as six million from where I stand through Central America. And there are dozens of languages in the linguistic family known—conveniently—as the Mayan languages.

"Cancun was destined to be a tourist resort," Garza said. "Because this was where all the

Mayan kings used to have their vacation palaces." This gorgeous stretch of the peninsula is known as the Mayan Riviera, after all.

A couple of hours later, I'm standing in the shadow of Mayan temple ruins on the site of one of these ancient resorts. On the south end of the Hotel Zone, nearly unnoticeable except for one humble sign before the entrance, stands El Rey. Or what's left standing.

It's a 700-year-old village, one of 47 that dot Cancun Island. From my viewpoint, I can see the enormous resort directly across the highway built in the shape of a pyramid.

And that's how it goes here. One side of the Zone is lined with international conglomerate hotels, the other with 1,000-year-old sites like El Rey. Mexico's archeological institute protects them, and this one, at least, is empty. Well, not quite. One other nerd like me is here poking around. The resorts are full of people who will spend their week across the road with no idea that this exists.

Now of course, spring break should be fun and exciting. And I admit, my idea of fun is a little off center. I will do my share of sunbathing and playing, but the history and everyday encounters with the people who live their whole lives here is too much to resist. And the fan only cost me $10.

Part 1 of 2;
see www.lavalleystar.com/.

email Rachel Parsons at
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- Love the beach but not the high prices? Hostel it. The Samesun Venice Beach offers dorm beds from $24 per night. Compare prices, reviews and book beds at hostelworld.com
- Check out the peaceful Venice Canals off South Venice Boulevard, they create a romantic neighborhood perfect for amorous walks—for free
- Always ask if a student I.D. scores discounts for public transport, restaurant and area attractions

ERIKA SUPLECOVA | VALLEY STAR
THE VOICE - Leslie Dennis singing in powerful soprano at the March 20 free Wednesday concert on in Music Recital Hall.

VOCALISTS PERFORM AT VALLEY

The three-person ensemble made opera accessible and fun for the audience.

BRITTANY BAGWELL
STAFF WRITER

The beautiful blend of piano and operatic singing filled the air as Valley College welcomed its first vocalist performance of the Spring Concert Series.

The performance featured both well-known classics and obscure short pieces that showcased the wide range of feeling and sound the human voice is capable of producing.

Along with the program, listeners were given a sheet of translated lyrics for the music selections that were not in English. This coupled with the singer's expressive faces and movements choreographed to convey the mood and storyline embodied in each song made for an enjoyable and easily understandable performance.

Greg Schreiner, the pianist, swayed gently back and forth as he played the black Steinway, looking the consummate professional in his grey suit and tie. In some pieces, he seemed to be setting background music to suit the story contained within the lyrics. In other songs, his piano's notes seemed to meld into the ringing vocals of his female counterparts and filled the auditorium with an ethereal resonance.

Sara Campbell, a mezzo soprano, seemed to shake the hall with her performance of the dramatic "Habanera" from George Bizet's opera "Carmen." Her facial expressions and body language conveyed clearly what the lyrics intended to express.

Leslie Dennis, a soprano, made her voice sound like whipping winds in Samuel Barber's "Sea Snatch." The piano's jarring notes expressed the churning movements of a tumultuous ocean. The two playing together made the song sound like the musical equivalent of a violent storm at sea.

The three played Rossini's "Cat Duet" for an encore, and the audience loved it once they realized what it was. The room was scattered with giggles as people tried to figure out if they were indeed meowing in operatic style, or if they were saying something in a different language that no one could understand. It became clear when the two women hissed at each other, and the entire room burst out laughing.

Humor was not something the listeners were expecting, and it was a great song choice to end on.

"Sempre Libera was my favorite song," said Cyrus Ghazizadeh, a music major at Valley. "But, I'm Italian, and I like Verdi as a composer."

The selected songs showcased the human voice and piano by not limiting what situations they can express through their emotion and sound. The women could fill the high ceilinged auditorium with sound so full and rich that it seemed to produce a tangible pressure that was felt, as such as heard, by the audience. Through the audible notes, the performers constructed a visual story that delighted the audience and it them cheering for an encore.

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LAVC Events

March

Wednesday, 27th

11am-12:30pm
Math 110 Workshop
Sponsored by LAVC Math Department
Library and Resources Center 203
Contact: LAVC Math Department, John Kawai (818)947 2852

Writing Workshop: "Conjunctions"
1pm-2:30pm
Sponsored by the LAVC Writing Center
Academic Resource Center 203
Contact: LAVC Writing Center (818) 947-2810

Free Wednesday Concert #6 featuring Aaron McClaskey,piano, sponsored by the LAVC Music Department
1 pm
LAVC Music Dept. Concert Series
Music Recital Hall, Music 106

Thursday, 28th

"Japanese American Photographers"
Dennis Reed, professor emeritus of art, LAVC, to Present a Japanese American Photographer Lecture
Associates of Brand Library & Art Center
@ 222 Harvard Street in Glendale
@ 7.pm- 8 p.m.

! THINK TRANSFER

March

Wednseday,27th

SOCHI

Southern California Health Institute College Represenattive
In front of Behavioral Sciences
@ 10 a.m.- 1p.m.

CSUN

School of Business and Economic's workshop
LAVC Career/Transfer Center in the Student Services Annex
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

UCLA

Peer Mentor Visit(STEM)
LAVC Career/Transfer Center in the Student Services Annex
@2 p.m.-7 p.m.

LAVC Career Transfer Center Bus Trips

April

Friday, 12th

SDSU & UCSD
@10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. & 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Friday, 26th

UCLA
@ 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

May

Friday, 10th

UCSB
@10 a.m- 12 p.m.

Friday, 31st

CSULA & USC
@ 9:30 a.m.- 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.

For Sign-up and further information
Call (818) 947-2646 or visit www.lavc.edu/transfer/

MONARCHS LOSE THIRD CONSECUTIVE GAME

The Valley College baseball team was defeated by Oxnard College, making it their third straight lose.

JULIO FLORES
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Valley College baseball team lost 14-2 to the Oxnard Pirates Monday, making it the Monarchs' third consecutive loss.

"We were rolling the lineup over," said Oxnard head coach Jon Larson. "There wasn't really a stop in it."

Oxnard has struggled this year, losing in the ninth inning of most of its games, but in the game against the Monarchs, Oxnard was able to secure a win early.

"We've struggled this year, and we lost a lot of guys in our line-up," said Valley head coach Dave Mallas. "We haven't had the season we had hoped to have."

In Friday's game against Glendale, the Vaqueros' Chris Whitmer hit a two-run home run, making it 2-0 Glendale in the top of the second inning.

The fifth inning was when the Glendale gathered momentum after Valley walked three of Glendale's batters to get the bases loaded for Pepe Marquez, who got a base hit to bring a runner in, making the score 4-1.

As the inning continued, Valley's pitcher, Juan Cenicer, threw a wild pitch that went all the way to the backstop, giving Glendale the opportunity to score another run and extending the Vaqueros' lead 5-1. Glendale scored another four runs during the fifth, ending the inning with 9- 1.

"That's what a team is all about–six runs and a team effort," said Glendale head coach Chris Cicuto. "Not just one standout, but the whole team working together."

The Monarchs rallied in the seventh inning after being able to get the bases loaded where a couple of line drives by Steven Gorma and Robert Gonza brought runners for Valley home to bring Valley within four.

"We have confidence in our pitching staff," said the Vaqueros' Whitmer. "We have trust in everyone no matter who's on the field."

Valley was not able to rally back from there as the Monarchs' Jarrett Jack closed out the bottom of the ninth with a 1.88 ERA. Jack said, "I've been working on my mechanics and working hard."

The Monarchs were unable to score more runs in the final two innings of the game, losing to Glendale 9-5. Valley's next home game will be Wednesday, March 27 against Antelope Valley College at 2 p.m.

ERIKA SUPLECOVA | VALLEY STAR
GIVING IT ALL - Monarchs' pitcher Joey Ozarowsky lets one fly during the baseball game at Valley College on Monday, March 25, 2013, against Oxnard College in which Valley lost to the Pirates, 14-2 .

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THINK IT THROUGH

DODGER VETERAN, CENTER FIELDER EXPECTED TO PILOT BOYS IN BLUE INTO UPCOMING SEASON

Matt Kemp makes his presence felt both on and off the field becoming the Dodgers' undisputed leader.

ROMEO GONZALEZ

Last year, upstate rivals, San Francisco Giants gave the Dodgers more to feel blue about after winning their second World Series in the past three years.

After missing the post season, the Dodgers have added different players, from places ranging from the Dominican Republic, to Ohio, to Australia.

But make no mistake, there is only one voice who leads the team.

Dodgers' center fielder Matt Kemp has become what Chris Paul is to the Clippers, a face to a team filled with stars who all have one common goal. To win a championship and beat the hated Giants.

"We brought in a lot of guys, but this is Matt's team, and everybody in here wants it to be Matt's team," said second baseman Mark Ellis in a Los Angeles Times article. "He's such a big player, such a big personality, it should be his team."

Two years ago, Kemp had a break-out season after being the best player in the National League who did not test positive for performance-enhancing drugs. Last season, Kemp predicted he would steal 50 bases and hit 50 home runs. It didn't happen.

Hamstring and shoulder injuries forced Kemp to miss a third of the season.

Coming off shoulder surgery, Kemp has been looking much thinner and leaner than he has in previous seasons.

"I'm playing center field, so I can't be out there and be all heavy and try to run around and make plays like Mike Trout," said Kemp to the L.A Times. "I have to be light to do things like that."

The team agrees that Kemp's weight loss will defiantly help him be more active playing center field, but the answer to the question of whether his offensive performance at the plate will be affected is yet to be seen.

Before his new look, Kemp never had a big impact in the clubhouse. This season, he has become more forceful with his teammates, prodding them when needed. Its been noted that Kemp has also become more brotherly with the rest of his teammates, trying to get everyone involve.

"He is that big presence, he's been here a long time, he knows how it works," Manager Don Mattingly told the L.A Times.

The center fielder is trying to establish something that was missing last season: chemistry. No matter how many stars the clubhouse might have, the Dodgers will not win unless there is a sense of togetherness.

There are other players who can certainly step up to the role Kemp is trying to fill, but none of them have the character. Andre Ethier is too quiet, Hanley Ramirez is new and Clayton Kreshaw only pitches every five games.

Kemp should take a note from Paul—after all, the Clippers have managed to become the third-best team in the Western Conference, having surpassed our beloved Lakers.

Email Romeo Gonzalez at
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Send general comments to
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